

WIGAN ATHLETIC



Saturday, 29th December, 1979 — Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR
WIGAN ATHLETIC
- v -
STOCKPORT
COUNTY

Official Programme

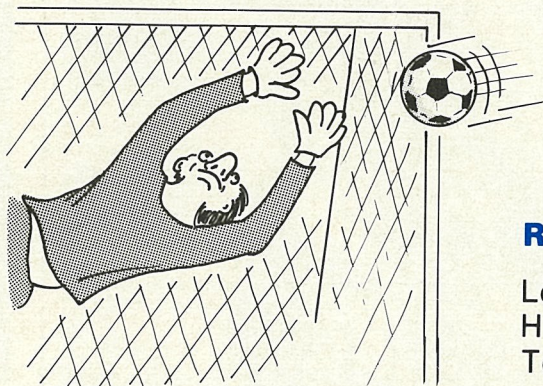
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COMPANY SECRETARY:
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TEAM MANAGER:
Mr. I.M. McNeill.

COMMERCIAL MANAGER:
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Our front page pic this issue shows
Wigan Athletic's 1979 high-flyer,
Peter Houghton. (Photo by courtesy
of The Evening Post & Chronicle).

Personally Speaking

by Ian McNeill



Good afternoon all.

A warm welcome to
Jim McGuigan and his
Stockport side. At this
time Jim has not had
time to make his
presence felt, but his
2-1 victory at Port Vale
would have given him
a boost. He has
recently purchased
winger Tony Coyle
from Albion Rovers, no

doubt hoping to give his side some width that he
has possibly lacked since Mike Summerbee left.

Pitch problems

Like lots of other sides at this time of year, our
pitch could be in better condition. I would say about
75% of League clubs suffer as we do. One of our big
problems is that we must keep the pitch flat, but
every time we roll the top we are compressing a
layer of about three to four inches which then stops
the water getting through. We are spiking as much
as possible, but it is very difficult to spike when the
pitch is sodden and spongy, so we are really caught
up in a vicious circle, and with the weather so
uncertain, we just keep crossing our fingers and
trust the weather man is kind to us.

New Year

Once again I wish all our fans a very, very happy
and prosperous New Year, and trust we can give
you plenty to enthuse over in the 1980's.

Enjoy today's game.

Ian McNeill.

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IT IS interesting to note that after the games played on December 30th, 1978, Stockport County were in ninth position in Football League Division Four, with Wigan Athletic in seventh position. It is also worth an observation that, should both Stockport and Wigan have won their two games prior to today's fixture, and should Wigan defeat the County today, both clubs would have exactly the same number of points from this season's games as they did at the same stage last season. The difference being, however, that by the turn of the year Stockport will have played 25 games as against last year's 23 games, while Wigan will have played 23 games as against last year's 22 games.

That neither Stockport County, nor Wigan Athletic for that matter, has been able to make the running in this year's quest for promotion has been a disappointment to their loyal supporters, but there is a long way to go before the end of the season, and, given a consistent run of success, both clubs could yet emerge as 'late' challengers for elevation to the Third Division.

Since we met Stockport three times in August (losing 1-2 on aggregate in the Football League Cup and winning 2-1 in the league game at Edgeley Park), the County's fortunes have fluctuated and as observers of the Fourth Division Scene will know Mike Summerbee and Stockport County parted company and that battle-hardened

campaigner Jimmy McGuigan took over as manager. No stranger to life in the Fourth Division, Mr. McGuigan has given notice of his intention to return Stockport County to Division Three as quickly as possible. Training has been stepped up, experiments made, and the signing of lively winger Tony Coyle from Scottish League side, Albion Rovers, number among the first shots fired in the new manager's campaign. Even goal-machine Les Bradd has been tried at centre back in an attempt to gain further benefit from the player's vast store of experience acquired in his time in league football!!

Off the field of play, Stockport County have just declared a record profit of £18,000, compared with a previous best of £10,000 in 1973, but the shrewd County directors are fully aware that only consistent playing performances, plus the hard work for which the club is so well-known, will give them further scope for development as costs continues to soar.

May we therefore, bid a warm Wigan welcome to our friends from Stockport County, whose hospitality to visitors is well-known throughout League Football. Whether you, the visitor, be Director, Manager player or spectator, we trust you will enjoy today's game, have a safe journey home and a new year of football which will bring you success and a just reward for the time and effort devoted to your club's cause.

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Commercial Chatter

AS WE reach the turn of the year and complete the first six months of our commercial activities it is the ideal time to look back on work done and to look forward and try to anticipate what the future might hold for us.

Without any shadow of a doubt, the most pleasing feature has been the way in which our lottery has moved smoothly from a monthly to a fortnightly operation. Initially we found our sales' figures falling short of our requirements, but in our last two lotteries there has been a gradual increase in sales, and, early in the New Year, we anticipate sales regularly hitting the eighty thousand tickets per month mark. From that point on, it will be our objective to slip in an additional lottery every so often to test the ground prior to taking the major decision to operate a lottery every seven to ten days. Such a breakthrough would transform our operation into one of the most productive fund-raising concerns in the lower reaches of the Football League.

Another pleasing aspect of our commercial operations has been the way in which our Club Shop has

stepped up its activities to cope with the increased demand for souvenirs, programmes and the like, not only on match days, but also throughout the week and even by mail order. Mrs. Ward and myself were a little apprehensive about placing large stock orders prior to the start of the season, and finally settled for orders equivalent in value to last year's total turnover. Obviously some lines sell quicker than others, but it is pleasing to report that up to Christmas we have turned over more than we did for the whole of last season, and, subject to the demands of re-orders, we are now moving into a profit situation. I anticipate that prior to the start of the 1980-81 it will be necessary to move out from our small but busy shop in the office block into larger premises, and I am equally certain that the mail order side of this aspect of our operations will increase considerably as our sales' methods become more sophisticated.

The match programme, although attractive, will not produce a major profit this year, as production costs are tending to lessen the impact of improved sales' figures. However,

advertising revenue, bulk exchange deals, subscriptions and late sales through the shop brighten the overall picture.

Although match sponsorship, ball donations and ground advertising have added to the revenue produced for the club, these aspects have yet to be fully exploited due to pressures imposed by other activities.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all my staff for their hard work over the past six months. At times we have all felt the pressure, but team spirit has pulled us through.

May I in closing, draw your attention to the donation of our match ball today by Muffin Man of Wigan, the Master Bakers. This firm has provided refreshments for our club, its directors, officials and players on many occasions and the quality of their products is fully recommended. The Kennedy family who operate the business from two shops in Park Road and Beech Hill Avenue are thanked not only for their donation of the ball, but also their past kindnesses.

Enjoy today's game.
J. T. Sudworth.

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Lancashire League Scene

by Fred Eyre

IT ALWAYS amazes me that the public and press tend to forget or fail to identify the players who are the very cornerstone of football. Unsung heroes, players who week after week turn in quietly efficient games but when the occasion arises for the Manager to deviate from his normal formation, in order to combat an extra special player in the opposing side or to counteract some tactic from the opposing team, it is always to this type of player that the Manager turns.

Every team must have a player of this calibre in their ranks. I have never yet seen a successful team without one and my Reserve Team at Wigan Athletic is no exception.

Alan Greenhalgh, although from nearby Ince, came to the club from Southport as a winger, but he is not regarded as such these days. Alan is our man for all seasons, having played with

distinction in all the three midfield positions, both fullback positions and sweeper.

However, he is at his most valuable to me during games when things are not quite going the way I would like them to be. It is one thing being sat on the line and able to spot what is going wrong, but it is another to have at your disposal on the field a player, who when given completely new instructions, has the ability to absorb them and then carry them out to the letter.

Alan Greenhalgh has done this type of unglamorous job for me on many occasions. Although his play does not win matches for us, it certainly has prevented us from losing many and, whilst possibly his work is not always noticed by the spectators, it is definitely appreciated by his team mates and, of course, by myself.

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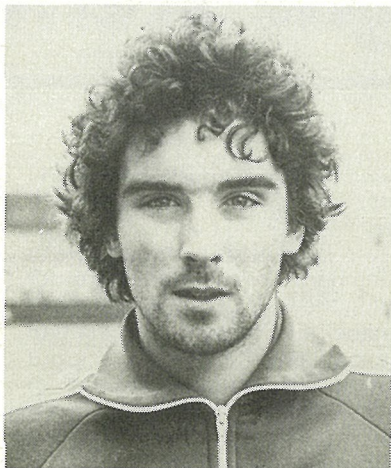
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Player Profile



Photograph by courtesy of the Wigan Observer



TONY QUINN (Forward)

TONY QUINN, originally from the famous Scotland Road area, now lives in Norris Green, Liverpool. As a schoolboy, he attended Cardinal Godfrey High School and represented his school at basketball, volleyball, athletics, and, of course, football. Tony was no slouch academically, either — he gained ten "O" level G.C.E. passes and two "A" levels in English Literature and History.

Having joined Everton as an Associate Schoolboy, he played in the junior sides for almost three seasons, before leaving to play a handful of games for Formby in the Cheshire County League. A helpful scout fixed Tony up with a trial at Liverpool towards the end of the season, and, playing in the "A" team throughout the next season, he shared in the club's success in winning the Lancashire League Division One Championship. Another memorable moment came for Tony when he played for the Liverpool County F.A. Youth XI and helped his side win the English F.A. County Youth Cup Competition.

Disappointment was to again come Tony Quinn's way, however, because Liverpool eventually informed him that he would not be offered terms and it was suggested he join Wigan Athletic, a club

where he might be able to make a name for himself. For a young player who had faced up to the rigours of Liverpool Sunday League Football at the ripe old age of twelve years, a move to a club outside Merseyside was no great step to be feared. In next to no time the precocious young player was rattling in the goals for Wigan's second team and was very promptly signed as a part-time professional. In Season 1978-1979, Tony Quinn was not only the second team's leading scorer with 35 goals, but also the leading scorer for Lancashire League Division One.

This season, after going full-time and patiently waiting in the wings, Tony's big chance came along, and, since being selected as substitute for the game against Lincoln City on 20th October, Wigan's starlet has started every game as a first-choice striker and justified his selection by scoring vital goals. His goal at Walsall recently was an absolute gem and the T.V. exposure given to young Quinn's effort highlighted the player's ability to finish off moves in almost clinical fashion.

The darling of the Wigan fans, Tony Quinn has the potential to develop into an even more exciting player, providing that he works hard at his game, builds up his strength and stamina and gains that little extra pace which will enable him to go clear of his opponent once his undoubted skill has created the initial breakthrough.

Given time, and opportunity, we have little doubt that this exciting young player will not only add to his Football League goal-tally for Wigan Athletic but will also attract the interest of higher-grade clubs ever on the look-out for the player who can regularly stick the ball into the net.

F.A. CHALLENGE CUP THIRD ROUND DRAW

West Brom v West Ham
Notts County v Wolves
Bristol C. v Derby Co.
Chelsea v Northwich V. or Wigan Ath.
Mansfield v Brighton
Preston v Ipswich
Everton v Aldershot
Birmingham v Southampton
Newcastle v Chester
Altrincham v Orient
Wimbledon or Portsmouth v
Middlesbrough

Chesham or Merthyr T. v Cambridge Utd
Walsall or Halifax v Manchester City
Tottenham v Manchester Utd.
Leeds Utd. v Nottingham F.
Wrexham v Charlton Ath.
Burnley v Stoke City
QPR v Watford
Millwall v Shrewsbury
Cardiff v Arsenal
Yeovil v Norwich
Bristol R. v Aston Villa
Blackburn v Fulham

Carlisle v Bradford C.
Luton T. v Torquay Utd. or Swindon
Oldham v Coventry
Reading v Colchester
Liverpool v Grimsby
Sunderland v Bolton
Swansea v Crystal Palace
Rochdale v Bury
Leicester v Harlow

Ties to be played on Saturday, 5th January, 1980.

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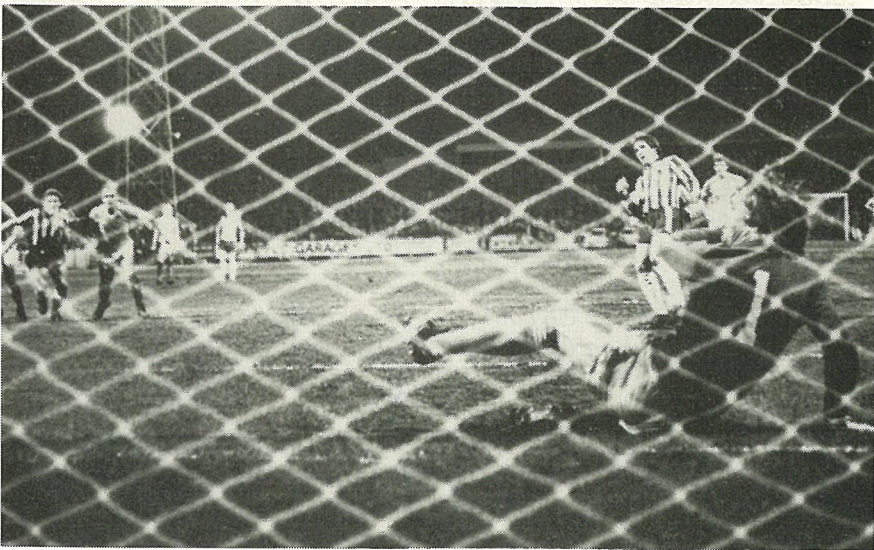
ABOVE:
Ian Purdie nets from the spot
against Northampton last
season.

TOP RIGHT:
Colin Methven's golden goal
against Blackpool at
Bloomfield Road.

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Tommy Gore's perfect
penalty kick against Black
pool.

Springfield Spotlight

THE MEMORY



Photographs by courtesy of The Wigan Observer.

NEW AND REBUILT

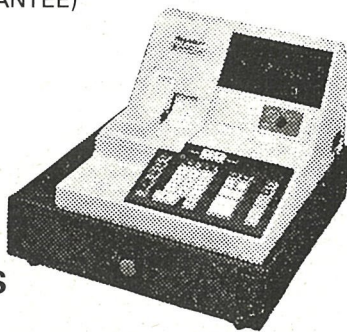
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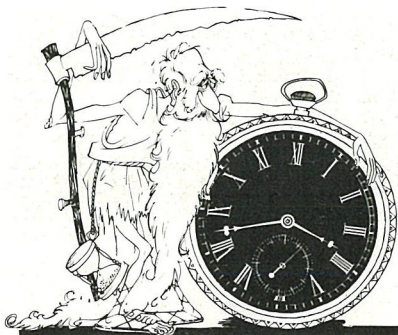
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Down Memory Lane

by Harold Ashurst

NINE years ago yesterday, on December 28th, 1970, Latics took part in perhaps one of the best remembered matches at Springfield Park.

Their opponents were Stafford Rangers, second in the Northern Premier League, while Wigan Athletic, then managed by Gordon Milne, were sitting pretty at the top of the league table. A big crowd was expected, as this was Wigan's last game before they met First Division Manchester City at Main Road in the third round of the F.A. Cup, but just how many people attended was a revelation. A total of 8,170 went through the turnstiles and, when you remember that it was for a league game between two non-league clubs, then it gives some idea of the interest being shown by local fans at that time. That match attendance figure still stands as the highest gate ever for a Northern Premier league game.

Any ideas that Latics might have been inclined to take things easy in view of the forthcoming cup tie were well wide of the mark. The game turned out to be one of the

most exciting seen for a long time and Wigan turned in a superb performance to beat Rangers 4-1. Gordon Milne's effort was followed by a Jim Fleming penalty and although Stafford briefly came back into the picture with a goal from Ray Williams (now the Northwich Manager), further efforts from Graham Oates and Geoff Davies gave Latics a tremendous win and sent them off to Main Road in good heart.

An interested spectator at the game was Manchester City centre forward Francis Lee, who, when asked for his opinion on Latics, said: "We will have to watch them on Saturday". Events proved how true that remark was.

The Wigan team, reckoned to be one of the finest ever to don the blue and white, was: Reeves, Morris, Sutherland, Milne, Coutts, Gillibrand, Temple, Todd, Davies, Fleming Oates.

Stafford lined up: Quigley, Chadwick, Morgan, Sargent, Clayton, Machin, Bailey, S. Chapman, Williams, R. Chapman, Jones.

LATICS AWAY

AT THE TIME of printing this programme the pattern of forthcoming fixtures is somewhat uncertain. Supporters are advised to scrutinise the local papers carefully to keep up to date with the rapidly changing fixture situation. Consequently, our normal guide as to routings to away grounds is omitted this issue.

Facts and Figures

Home fixtures in capitals.
Wigan scores first.

Player scoring in bold.
† Player substituted.

² Figure indicates no. of goals scored by player.
^{*} In result column indicates opponents own goal.

DATE	FIXTURE	F	A	ATT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
Aug 11	Stockport FLC1	1-2	6,004	R Warr	Smart	Hinnigan		Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	Brownbill	Purdie	Urquhart			
Aug 15	STOCKPORT FLC1	0-0	7,591	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan		Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Purdie	Moore			
Aug 18	Darlington	2-2	2,063	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan ¹		Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore ¹	Purdie	Dauids			
Aug 22	HUDDERSFIELD	1-2	6,527	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan		Gore ¹	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	Moore ¹	Purdie	Brownbill			
Aug 25	Stockport County	2-1	3,837	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan		Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore ¹	Purdie	Urquhart			
Sep 1	PORTSMOUTH	1-2	8,198	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan		Gore	Hart	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Brownbill ²			
Sep 8	Bournemouth	2-1	4,390	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan		Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan ¹	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart ¹			
Sep 15	YORK CITY	2-5	5,990	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan		Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton ²	Purdie			
Sep 19	HARTLEPOOL	2-1	4,877	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan		Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Urquhart			
Sep 22	Hereford United	1-2	3,891	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan		Purdie	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright ¹	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Urquhart			
Sep 29	BRADFORD CITY	4-1	8,009	Shyne	Gore ¹	Hinnigan ¹		Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore ¹	Houghton ¹	Crompton			
Oct 6	TORQUAY UNITED	0-3	6,541	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan		Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Crompton			
Oct 9	Huddersfield Town	0-4	7,871	Brown	Gore	Hinnigan		Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Methven			
Oct 13	Doncaster Rovers	1-3	4,169	Brown	MacIvor ²	Hinnigan		Gore	Methven	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart			
Oct 20	LINCOLN CITY	2-1	5,454	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan		Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ²	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn			
Oct 24	ROCHDALE	1-1	5,036	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan		Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Buckley			
Oct 27	Newport County	2-3	4,910	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan		Gore	Methven ¹	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Buckley	A Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Smart			
Nov 3	DARLINGTON	4 ¹	5,001	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan ²		Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Buckley			
Nov 6	Rochdale	2-0	2,936	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan		Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	A Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Brownbill			
Nov 17	SCUNTHORPE	4-1	4,618	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan ¹		Gore ¹	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn ¹	Urquhart ¹	Moore			
Nov 24	Blackpool F.A.C.1	1-1	11,277	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan		Gore	Methven ¹	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore			
Nov 28	BLACKPOOL FAC1R	2-0	14,589	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan		Gore ¹	Methven	Davids	Corrigan ¹	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore			
Dec 1	NORTHAMPTON	0-0	6,158	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan		Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore			
Dec 8	Walsall	1-1	5,261	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan		Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Moore			
Dec 21	CREWE																		
Dec 24	Northwich FAC2																		
Dec 26	Peterborough																		
Dec 29	STOCKPORT																		
Jan 1	PORT VALE						Portsmouth	22	10	0	1	36	11	5	2	4	17	16	32
Jan 5	Halifax Town						Newport County	23	9	2	1	28	14	5	1	5	20	14	31
Jan 12	Portsmouth						Walsall	22	6	5	0	18	9	5	4	2	18	13	31
Jan 19	BOURNEMOUTH						Huddersfield Town	22	7	2	2	30	9	6	2	3	19	15	30
Jan 26	ALDERSHOT						Bradford City	22	7	3	1	24	6	6	1	4	17	18	30
Feb 2	York City						Torquay United	22	9	2	0	29	9	1	6	4	14	19	28
Feb 9	HEREFORD UNITED						Doncaster Rovers	21	7	2	2	21	15	3	4	3	10	9	26
Feb 16	Bradford City						Aldershot	21	8	1	2	22	8	2	3	5	10	14	24
Feb 23	DONCASTER						Lincoln City	21	5	4	1	20	8	3	2	6	10	18	22
Feb 29	Lincoln City						Peterborough United	22	6	1	4	18	14	3	3	5	6	11	22
Mar 8	NEWPORT COUNTY						Halifax Town	22	7	3	1	13	6	1	3	7	8	20	22
Mar 14	Torquay United						Bournemouth	22	3	4	4	14	13	3	3	4	13	20	22
Mar 22	TRANMERE						Wigan Athletic	20	5	2	4	21	18	3	2	4	13	17	20
Mar 29	Scunthorpe United						Tranmere Rovers	21	5	1	4	15	12	3	3	5	9	16	20
Apr 4	Crewe Alexandra						Stockport County	22	3	4	4	10	17	4	2	5	11	18	20
Apr 5	PETERBOROUGH						York City	22	5	3	3	22	17	2	2	7	19	31	19
Apr 7	Port Vale						Hereford United	22	5	3	3	12	9	2	2	7	9	19	19
Apr 12	HALIFAX TOWN						Northampton Town	22	7	2	2	17	10	0	3	8	8	26	19
Apr 19	Nhampton Town						Hartlepool United	21	6	2	2	18	12	1	2	8	12	20	18
Apr 26	WALSALL						Darlington	22	5	5	1	19	11	0	2	9	7	29	17
May 3	Aldershot						Scunthorpe United	23	4	5	2	20	13	1	1	10	8	32	16
							Port Vale	22	4	1	6	18	11	1	3	7	9	24	14
							Rochdale	21	3	3	4	10	13	0	3	8	8	26	12
							Crewe Alexandra	22	3	3	5	11	15	0	1	10	4	28	10

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Fourth Division Focus

by Chris Gill



FOUR Fourth Division sides took knock-out blows in Saturday's F.A. Cup Second Round. Perhaps the biggest shock was the departure of Billy Bremner's in-form Doncaster Rovers side who crashed 1-2 at home to Mansfield Town in front of a near 8,000 home crowd.

A.F.C. Bournemouth fell to a goal from Colchester United's Rowles, while a Baines effort after twenty-three minutes put Bradford City into the next round at the expense of Darlington.

Hereford United took the lead against fellow Division Four rivals Aldershot, but the "Shots" came from behind to gain an away draw at Everton on January 5th.

There's little doubt that the great escape of the round came from Tranmere Rovers. They scored twice four minutes from time to draw with Rochdale. Their reprieve was only temporary, however, as they went down 1-2 in the replay at Spotland.

Away from the glamour of the cup, Stockport County made a net profit of £18,941 last season. The Darlington fortunes differed. They suffered a £10,000 loss last term, compared with a £35,000 profit in the previous twelve months.

Getting lower . . . the rock bottom attendance figure for a Division Four

game this season was when Rochdale met Aldershot recently in front of 1,233 spectators.

Huddersfield Town slipping slightly just lately, have been pipped in their bid to bring young Southampton winger Terry Sealey to Leeds Road. The player opted instead to join Crystal Palace. One player Huddersfield Town did snap up is former Everton and Watford goalkeeper Andy Rankin who has agreed to a month's loan with a view to a free transfer.

After a short spell at Fratton Park former Port Vale player Ken Todd has been transfer listed by Pompey.

It's all go at Halifax where the Shaymen have just signed striker Vernon Allott from non-league Hednesford for around £6,000, and their other recent signing, Paul Hendrie, got off the mark for his side with a goal against Lincoln City.

Meanwhile, Crewe Alexandra's manager Tony Waddington is on the lookout for firepower to boost an attack that has run dry of goals lately.

Two of the hottest properties in the division are currently Walsall's Don Penn and Ian Paul. Manchester City and Preston are said to be among the queue of admirers.

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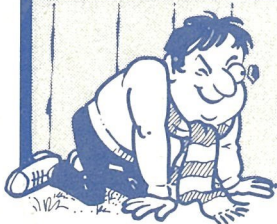
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Inside Information

by I. Spy

AT THIS TIME of good news and good will to all men we are pleased to announce the arrival of two new members of our football family:-

To Noel and Betty Ward a son, Noel, weight 9 lbs.

To Tommy and Janet Gore a daughter, Jenny, weight 8 lbs. 9 ozs.

We wish both families joy in their happy Christmas celebrations.

We are also pleased to announce that in the New Year, Derek Brownbill and

his wife Joyce, Colin Methven and his wife Vera, Dave Fretwell and his wife Pamela Peter Houghton and his wife Gill, and Alan Crompton and his wife Carol are all awaiting similar happy events.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express the compliments of the season to every one connected with the club and trust that 1980 will bring along a whole chain of happy events, both on and off the field of play.

ON THE last Saturday of 1979, good afternoon and welcome to all Latics and Stockport supporters, and from the staff and committee, our very best wishes for the New Year and may 1980 see the realisation of all you wish for.

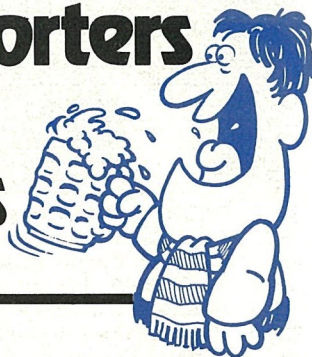
In our last programme notes, I mentioned that our quiz team had won the Radio Manchester Shield, and although we are proud to have it at the club, it will be officially presented to us by Mr. Martin Henfield of Radio Manchester, before the start of the Aldershot match on 26th January. Many thanks to both the Board of Directors and our good friend Mr. Jack Sudworth for offering to liaise over the arrangements for the presentation.

On Monday night, 17th December, we travelled to the Brownhill Hotel, Rochdale (the headquarters of Rochdale A.F.C. Supporters club) to play the first round (1st leg) of the Supporters Clubs' Federation Quiz. The match result was Rochdale 72 — Latics 76, and so we carry a slight lead into the return fixture.

Once again, I wish to remind you that the "second leg" of the first round is at Springfield Park, on Monday, 7th January — at 8.00 p.m. I'm sure, beyond any doubt, that, if you come along, you will enjoy a good evening's entertainment.

Tonight on stage in the club we are more than happy to present Johnny McGee, without

Supporters Club News



a doubt one of the very best entertainers in clubland.

Tomorrow, Sunday, 30th December, we have Colin Berry, and on Monday, 31st December (New Year's Eve) Terry Young — but, once again I must stress that, as on Christmas Eve, it must be "Members Only" until 8.00 p.m. Please come early!!

Once again wishing everyone a Happy and Prosperous 1980

Sincerely,
Peter Woods.



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A last word from the chairman . . .

ONCE AGAIN it gives me particular pleasure to welcome the Chairman, Directors, Staff and Supporters of the Stockport County Football Club to Springfield Park. Today will be the fourth occasion we have met our near neighbours during the current campaign, and, if today's clash follows the pattern of previous games, we are likely to witness a very competitive game between two well-matched sides. Both Stockport and Wigan are gradually pushing up the league table and whichever side wins today's game will gain that little extra encouragement to tackle the second half of the 1979-80 league programme. Whatever the result of today's game, let us hope that 1980 will prove a very happy new year for both clubs.



I have previously acknowledged the valuable contribution being made by the supporters of the club and our playing and training staff. I would now like to express the appreciation of the Board of Directors to the staff who administer the day-to-day activities of our Football Club, complete work on the pitch and ground, organise fund-raising schemes and provide the social services and activities which take place in our Supporters' Club. It is not my purpose to single out individuals for praise, because, whatever his or her particular function, each member of our staff contributes in a very positive way to the life of Wigan Athletic Football Club. It is all too easy to watch ninety minutes football and be carried along by the excitement generated by the game itself, but, without an able and conscientious back-room staff, no club could possibly hope to provide the right climate for on the field and off the field activities. We, at Springfield Park, are fortunate enough to have a very willing and able body of people who make our match days well worth the journey to the ground and our social occasions a pleasure to experience. Thank you, one and all!!

Enjoy today's game.

Sincerely,
A. O. Horrocks.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. O. Horrocks', written over a horizontal line.

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Teams

**Wigan
Athletic**
Royal Blue
& White Stripes

John Brown	1	David Lawson
Dave Fretwell	2	John Rutter
Joe Hinnigan	3	Mike Czuczman
Tommy Gore	4	Ken Fogarty
Colin Methven	5	Steve Sherlock
Neil Davids	6	Les Chapman
Frank Corrigan	7	Phil Henson
Jeff Wright	8	Terry Park
Peter Houghton	9	Osher Williams
Tony Quinn	10	Eddie Prudham
George Urquhart	11	Les Bradd
Mickey Moore	12	Tommy Sword
		Tony Coyle

**Stockport
County**
Yellow and
Green

Officials

Referee:

Mr. J.M. Warner
(Wednesbury)

Commenced refereeing in 1957 and progressed via local leagues to West Midlands (Regional) League and then Football League. Lined a Home International in 1978 and an F.A. Cup Semi-Final in 1979.

Linesmen:

Red Flag

Mr. J.J. Cunningham
(Preston)

Yellow Flag

Mr. K.G. Fawcett
(Kendal)

Here next...

Tuesday, 1st January, 1980. Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

WIGAN ATHLETIC v PORT VALE

Football League Division Four